

WILMINGTON DISTRICT NEWS
ONLINE

MARCH 2007

**MID-CENTURY POWERHOUSE IS
REBORN IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM****INSIDE THIS
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**Article and Photos
By Penny Schmitt**

In 1952, the John H. Kerr Powerhouse was state-of-the-art. Now, after more than fifty years of solid and reliable service, the facility is again moving toward the cutting edge, and will generate more power, more cleanly than in the past.

Powerhouse Superintendent Rick Carroll said: "this process started in 1995, when we conducted some important tests to determine whether the components had begun to lose efficiency. Although the generating power at Kerr Dam has remained reliable, we did find efficiency losses and deterioration beginning in some major equipment. We identified leaking pipe, cavitation in turbines, problems with peripheral equipment and other problems associated with age and wear and tear. We also



Power Plant Operator Wayne Fussel watches intently as Unit One springs to life. The gauges at the left in the inset photo are the new controls, those to the right are the old ones.

knew that more environmentally friendly equipment was available today than in the 1950s. That put us on the path to authorization for a complete rehabilitation project in 1999. Construction began in 2000."

Renovations and rehabilitations cover all parts of the power plant, from the big switchyard outside connecting to the huge power lines

that march across the river, to the turbines deep inside the dam, the big generator units sitting in the powerhouse bay, and the control room from which the power plant is operated.

More than two years of work remains, but the project celebrated an important milestone in this March. Unit One, fully rehabbed,

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UP FRONT

MARCH MADNESS: EXCITING TIMES IN CONGRESS & ON THE BASKETBALL COURTS!

By COL John Pulliam
District Commander

At the time I'm writing this it's March Madness! Spring is in the air, Justin McCordle has that sleepless look that hints at staying up all hours of the night to TiVo the day's basketball games, and the debate rages on about NC State versus UNC. All is right with the world!

Listen, if you are not dialed into the "Town Crier" and its daily notes, please do so...we pass some strategic info, as well as social news and events, through that forum. If you haven't seen it lately (in the last couple of months), you probably don't even know what you're missing....please "plug back in!"

One item I recently posted in the Town Crier is a huge "THANKS" to the District team from Senators Burr and Dole, as well Representatives McIntyre, Jones, Price, Hayes, Goode, Coble, Butterfield, and Forbes (and I'm probably forgetting one or two who offered the same sentiments) for the good work we do on behalf of the folks of North Carolina and south-central Virginia. They *literally* asked me to thank you for them. Our leadership in Washington, D.C., on both the Executive and Legislative sides, understands

and appreciates the incredibly important work we do for the American citizens in our corner of the country.

Among the weightiest topics we discussed with our Congressional delegation and the North Carolina Water Resources Congress membership this past



During the trip to D.C., District Commander COL John Pulliam listens to Congressman Mike McIntyre discuss various issues in North Carolina. Also listening is DDE, PPM Chris Brayman and Chief of Programs Management Branch Jim Medlock.

month were the move toward a true Five-Year plan for Civil Works and NC Ports' push toward a new international port at Southport. There is a great deal of energy and excitement on both fronts, each of which has promise for the future of this region and of the SAW team as the nation's federal engineers here. There is broad support

among the NC and VA delegations for the work we're doing—mood in D.C. remains challenging for coastal storm damage reduction (a.k.a. shore protection or beach nourishment), but less so for navigation, lakes, and river/watershed efforts. If you would like to know more about either of the initiatives, or any of the discussions we had on our projects, grab me or Christine in the hallway, in an email, or on the phone and we'll give you a more complete update.

We have a great collection of news and info in this edition of *Wilmington District News Online*. In these pages, we'll celebrate Women's History Month with stories about some Wilmington ladies who did (make history, that is)...we'll update you on awards (like Chris Frabotta's recent ASBPA recognition) and deployments (Sam Colella recently back home from New Orleans)...and there's a neat feature article on the Kerr Rehab job that I recommend to you.

Please be safe and help those around you to be safe as well. Identify the risks you face ahead of time and take prudent steps to reduce or mitigate that risk. We need every single member of this team...take care of yourselves and each other. ■

Wilmington District News Online is an unofficial publication authorized under provisions of AR 360-1 published each month by the Wilmington District Public Affairs Office to keep District employees informed of current District news, activities and achievements. Send submissions for **Wilmington District News Online** to henry.g.heusinkveld@saw02.usace.army.mil or penny.schmitt@saw02.usace.army.mil

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wilmington District



COLELLA PART OF DEDICATED SOLDIER & CIVILIAN EFFORT TO HELP NEW ORLEANS



COL Sam Colella listens to a Task Force Hope member during a meeting at the New Orleans District.

Chances are fairly high that USACE Army officers will deploy from their districts for duty in either Iraq or Afghanistan to help with reconstruction efforts. This means Army Reserve engineer officers are sometimes activated for missions elsewhere to fill the gaps. The Wilmington District's Sam Colella was one of them. In mid-December he put on his uniform, became *Colonel Sam Colella* and headed straight to New Orleans to become a member of Task Force Hope and help rebuild the city's Hurricane Protection System.

"I used many of the same skills of the job I do in Wilmington as Chief of Project Management," he said. "Task Force Hope is the programs management office for the Hurricane Protection System (HPS), running a 5.7 billion-dollar program."

Colella was the Operations Officer for TF Hope, part of a MVD-forward office responsible for rebuilding and improving the levees and floodwalls in the Greater New Orleans area. "In addition to working the programs management mission, I recruited people for permanent and temporary positions

within Task Force Hope, and oversaw the Strategic Communications mission."

COL Sam Colella is no stranger to deployment. In 2003 his Pennsylvania Army Reserve unit deployed to Kosovo for six months. He found that his deployment to the New Orleans District left him little time to think about anything other than the mission at hand.

"It's very similar to Corps members in uniform when they get deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan or other areas. We're a seven-day-a-week operation working 12-15 hours a day. There's no shortage of work. Lots of people, lots of support. It's different from being in a military outfit, but I think it's very comparable."

Colella said what made life challenging for him during his deployment was the shortage of USACE personnel in New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina. He said numerous vacancies needed to be filled, and he spent a lot of time working hard to help recruit people to come to the city.

"We scrambled to recruit people to come to New Orleans on a semi-permanent basis. The New Orleans District is still working hard to attract people for permanent jobs. Our hands were full trying to manage that."

Colella said that he's using all the leadership skills that he's learned in his career to manage the challenges of this mission.

"There's still a lot of negative press about the Corps and other government agencies. That makes the atmosphere

a little difficult trying to deal with customers and sponsors who sometimes don't have a lot of trust. We're working hard to rebuild credibility. It will take a while, but I'm sure we'll recover."

Colella said that when deployed to New Orleans you have to take the good with the bad. He's been all over the city and calls it a "mixed bag."

"Some parts of the city have not recovered, with stoplights that are still not working and the roads in bad shape, but other parts look great."

Despite the challenges, Colella feels that the volunteer force working to rebuild the city is unwavering in its mission to rebuild.

"People are going down there because of their volunteer spirit. We have a group of people who want to make a difference."

Colella returned to the Wilmington District in mid-March. The position he was filling has been designated an active duty colonel position. He encourages those who've never deployed before to challenge themselves and give some much needed help to the New Orleans District and its city.

"It's not an easy job, but you can do more work in a short period of time and gain a lot of experience than you ever could in your day-to-day job." ■



POWERHOUSE CON'T

was commissioned and began generating power at 2:00 p.m. on March the 6th, 2007.

The seven years of complex construction work that preceded this moment included several other impressive projects. The entire switch yard at the power house was converted from oil to gas circuit breakers, a much cleaner process. Seven transformers were also replaced, and the massive bridge crane that runs on tracks above the two-

football-fields-long chamber that holds the generators was also renovated, getting a new control system that allows the crane operator to run the equipment from a station on the ground.

Unit one is the first, and smallest, of the seven power generating units to be rehabbed. The work involves the rewinding of seven generator units, the replacement of six turbines, and the refurbishment of one turbine (just completed). Three of

the new turbines will be fitted with naturally aspirating (aerating) units. They will add more dissolved oxygen to the water flowing downstream from the dam. This is an environmental measure that will improve water quality in the Roanoke River downstream of the dam. All these measures will improve the plant's overall efficiency and reliability, and increase power generation capability. ■



District Commander Colonel John Pulliam and Powerhouse Superintendent Rick Carroll discuss equipment in the refurbished control room.

POWERHOUSE CON'T



The renovated switch yard uses gas rather than oil for cleaner operation.

Kerr Dam Facts

Kerr Dam generates an average of 426,749,000 kilowatt hours per year, which is sold to local power companies for local consumption. Since its construction Kerr Dam has prevented more than \$385,638,000 in downstream flood damages.



The bridge crane (foreground) that services the generator was also rebuilt. (Photo courtesy John H. Kerr Lake)



A worker removes coils from old unit one. (Photo courtesy John H. Kerr Lake)

For more information about John H. Kerr Dam:

epec.saw.usace.army.mil.roankerr.htm

SECURITY TEAM, FALLS LAKE RANGERS KEEP WATCHFUL EYE ON FALLS DAM

What began as a simple weekend camping trip to Falls Lake near Raleigh for six members of a U.S. allied naval force, turned out to be an exercise in beneficial vigilance for the District's security team.

In mid-February Falls Lake Park Ranger Steve Mason thought it seemed odd when a group of visitors asked only for literature about the structural content of Falls Dam. His suspicions rose when a little while later he watched the same group get out of a white rental van parked on top of the dam and began taking pictures. What triggered his call to Wilmington District Chief of Security Greg Barr was that the six were dressed in tactical gear.

"There was no contact made with them at that point," Barr stated. "I contacted Lakes Manager Neil Myers who sent out a message to the other projects in the District within 15 minutes. We then notified the FBI and put a trace out on the rental van license plate."

The following day, Barr said the same group of people appeared on security cameras again. Falls Lake Park Manager Tom Freeman sent Ranger Rebecca Warren out to talk

with them. She didn't get any of their names, and said they claimed to be in the Indian Navy attached to the naval base in Norfolk, Virginia. By this time Linda Williams of the SAW Security Office had tracked the plate of the rental vehicle to a Chesapeake, Virginia rental car agency.

"The people at the rental car agency told me the van was rented to a corpo-

military sales. They also said that the USS Trenton was being decommissioned the day before and it was being reconditioned for the Indian Navy."

Barr said officials at the company confirmed that the van renters were with the Indian Navy, among a 400-member crew who came to the U.S. to pick up the ship to take back to India. Barr later learned the six-member

group at Falls Lake had decided to go camping in North Carolina during their short trip to America.

Looking back, Barr said that the telltale sign that something out of the ordinary was a facial feature on one of the men.

"One member had a beard. In the U.S. Navy and the military overall, beards are not allowed. It all looked suspicious. They



SAW security cameras captured real-time images of the six-person group taking pictures on top of the dam at Falls Lake near Raleigh.

were in tactical gear and they were taking pictures on top of the dam. Had there been some prior coordination from the military liaison of the Indian Navy it wouldn't have been a problem."

ration," she said. "I then had to call another person in Virginia because nobody would disclose any information. I finally was put in contact with a supervisor and I had to fax a letter with our letterhead stating who were and why we needed the information. That's when I got the information."

Barr then called the same company.

"They said they were involved in

Barr added that this security check ran smoothly, and he credits the District members at the projects for going with their gut instincts to report what they saw. ■

FRABOTTA RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD FROM AMERICAN SHORE&BEACH PRESERVATION ASS'N



Chris Frabotta

Wilmington District's own Chris Frabotta, currently serving for a legislative session in Washington D.C. on the Corps legislative liaison team, was honored with the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association's Corps Award for 2007.

The award was presented during the ASBPA's awards reception on March 22 in the historic Senate Caucus room in the Russell Senate Office Building. Chris Brayman represented the Wilmington District at the ceremony.

According to Carteret County's Greg (Rudi) Rudolph, who nominated Chris for the award:

"2006 was an interesting year for Mr. Frabotta, his first full year

back at the Wilmington District after not one, but two separate tours in Iraq. He was given all navigation projects almost his first day back home – many, if not all of which had no or limited federal funding, ranging from major harbors to shallow draft waterways. Also, many of these projects included beach nourishment elements and/or sand management themes.

His "can't take no for an answer" approach paved the way for groundbreaking cost-sharing inter-local agreements with the State of North Carolina and local communities. Some projects had a portion of federal dollars to contribute and others had no federal funding for the first time ever in the history of these projects. Making federal dollars stretch the most to maintain navigation, place sand on beaches, and help local communities became his daily modus operandi.

Chris had to also propose these modified-scope projects while trying to judge the dredging industry and forthcoming bids. He was the linchpin in a series of inlet crossing projects that included beach nourishment – the first time ever local/State funding was used for this project, and worked tirelessly

to ensure the Morehead City Harbor Section 933 Project was bid and awarded under challenging FY 2007 continuing resolution conditions.

He spent countless hours within his own District, Division, and Headquarters during this process, and again ensured all the paperwork was in order to meet a very tight construction window for the project. In addition, Chris is continuing to ensure Wilmington Harbor and the inner ranges of the Morehead City Harbor are maintained this year despite an unprecedented shortage of federal funding for these large-scale navigation projects."

We're proud of Chris for all that he has done within our District and in his new venture, supporting the Corps at the national and legislative liaison level. ■

Founded in 1926, the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association represents the scientific, technical and political interests along the coast in an effort to shape national research and policy concerning shore and beach management and restoration.

OUR WILMINGTON DISTRICT WOMEN MAKE HISTORY DAILY

By Penny Schmitt

Fifty years ago, in 1957, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers certainly had female employees. Women began really entering the work force in greater numbers during World War II, when they were greatly needed

to fill the gaps left by men who were serving in the Armed Forces. Our personnel records don't reach far enough back to reflect on just what jobs women did. But we know for sure that today looks different, and even the past five years have brought big changes in

the roles women play in our own organization.

Just a year ago, our 'Corporate Board' in the Wilmington District was an all-male enclave. Now, our DPM, **Chris Brayman**, and our Chief

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NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2007



Tara Anderson



Cheryl Parks &
Mamie Anderson



Sherry Gaylor



Sarah Tingley



Chris Brayman



Brooke Lamson



Nancy Wallace

WILMINGTON DISTRICT WOMEN CON'T

of Counsel, **Brooke Lamson**, both of whom have more than capably undertaken key civilian leadership positions in the District, are women. This change in leadership would once have been thought pretty earthshaking. Now it's the natural outcome of life in a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that has been opening every career path to women more and more since the early 1970s and even earlier for some 'pioneers'.

On the first of September 2001, none of our civilian women gave much thought to deploying to a military theater of operations. Now, we have memories of seeing those first pictures of **Sarah Tingley, Nancy Wallace, Tara Anderson, and Sherry Gaylor** in BDUs on Baghdad and Kabul streets, and we are still getting emails from long-time deployees **Cheryl Parks and Mamie Anderson**, who continue to

bear our District standard in Afghanistan.

In fact there's hardly anywhere in the world our women won't go, if there's a chance to help others! **Gloria Cliff**, who deployed to Guam to help out after a major typhoon, probably holds the 'far-away' record. But we've had so many of our women deploy to assist in disaster recovery, that it's far easier to name the disasters, than it is to come up with a complete list of all our women who served. They headed up PRT teams for water delivery, helped with quality assurance and quality control for debris management, performed internal review, counsel, logistics, public affairs, planning, contracting, personnel management, administrative and other missions during many a hurricane recovery. They have moved out in North Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Guam,

Puerto Rico and other locations, taking the highest level of professionalism and team spirit with them wherever they go.

The day when certain jobs were thought of as 'women's work' and people who broke that mold were considered oddities, is fortunately gone. The regulator out in the field, the planner, the contracting specialist or resource manager, the computer programmer, the biologist, geologist, engineer, the Corps Ranger or project operations manager is today almost as likely to be a woman as the person in a traditional 'support' role like human resources or administrative assistance.

We are proud to be part of an organization like the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, that truly fosters every talent and offers opportunities for professional achievement and leadership to all. ■

POLAR BEAR PLUNGE AT W. KERR SCOTT LAKE IS A COOL..ER..COLD WAY TO HELP SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Article & Photos by
W. Kerr Scott Park Ranger
Jory Shepherd

Close to 200 people converged on Dark Mountain Recreation Area in mid-March to take a dip in the frigid waters of W. Kerr Scott Lake. The annual Polar Bear Plunge, which benefits the Special Olympics in Wilkes County, raised more than \$50,000 this year--\$45,000 of it during the plunge itself which saw 150 brave souls take the plunge in the chilly 46 degree water.

The Carolina Ski Team entertained the crowds during the pre-event show. The ski teams antics were topped off with a show-



A youth decides to take the challenge of a pre-springtime swim with a cannonball.



Brrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr!!!! A participant in the annual Polar Bear Plunge gets a cold shock after hitting the winter waters of W. Kerr Scott Lake.

stopping seven-person pyramid that awed the crowd.

Prevailing tradition has plungers dress up in costumes or themes. This year's organizers, Bill Lyons and County Schools, dressed up as high school cheerleaders—a site to see since they are all men! They were joined by the top fundraiser, David Caldwell, who is a Special Olympian himself. He alone raised \$11,000.

Also, a big hit with the crowd was the Wizard of Oz theme, worn by North Wilkes High

School Teachers. The Tin Man, who was dressed in aluminum foil, lost his costume right before he plunged! When it was announced that bikini-clad girls were due up next, a rush of men pushed close to the shore, only to be surprised that the girls were all 3rd graders!

As in past years, local celebrities Michelle Kennedy, Tolly Carr and Brian Slocum from NBC news affiliate WXII in Winston Salem participated in the event.



COMMENTARY

“OF SNAILS AND BLINDNESS”

This month we offer a commentary by our soon-to-retire Environmental Section Chief, Bill Adams. Bill plans to devote more time to combining his love of nature and vocation for ministry in retirement. As with any personal commentary published in our pages, thoughts and opinions expressed herein do not reflect official policy of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



cies and get some for study. He found the snail was common in Greenfield Lake and in the process of collecting it, found and described another new species, the “Greenfield rams-horn” (but that’s another story). He carried the magnificent rams-horns back to his lab in the Smithsonian and when examining them he discovered a most curious fact – the adults were totally blind!

Time passed, water quality deteriorated, and soon the magnificent

young were born in my aquariums and they all had well-developed eyes. But, sure enough, as each one matured their eyes became smaller and smaller until they became totally blind.

Fascinating! I know of no other creature that becomes physically blind as a normal part of its life cycle. Why would this be? How does this benefit the species? Is it the work of some parasite? Here is one of nature’s mysteries waiting to be discovered.

Around 1902, a man named William P. Seal, an amateur naturalist who made a living collecting animals for the aquarium trade, visited Wilmington. As he collected in some local ponds, he came across a very large rams-horn snail unlike any he had ever seen before. Mr. Seal sent some of the snails to Dr. Henry Pilsbry of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. Dr. Pilsbry described them as a new species in 1903. Today we call it the “magnificent rams-horn,” because it is the largest rams-horn snail in North America.

A few years later, Dr. Paul Bartsch of the Smithsonian Institution visited the area to see the spe-



Close up of a “magnificent rams-horn snail”, the largest of its kind in North America.

rams-horn could no longer be found in Greenfield Lake. Since it was known from nowhere else some thought it was extinct. But in 1986, it was discovered again in a black water pond in Brunswick County. After their rediscovery, I kept some magnificent rams-horns in aquariums and I can tell you that they are indeed big and they eat a lot! Soon

I thought of all this the other day as I was passing out food at a local food bank. It occurred to me that many of us who think we can see are also partially blind; for when I see “street people,” I realize that I suffer from a form of spiritual blindness.

You see, for all of my adult life I’ve been a magnet for panhandlers. I think I have “soft touch” written on my forehead in

some sort of ink that only they can see. And it’s a universal language too; no matter where I go panhandlers can read it. I think it got written on me sometime during college; possibly as a terrible hazing joke, because no panhandlers ever approached me before then. But now I bear the mark and I’ve got to deal

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LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

KNOW YOUR STRENGTHS

By Tony Young

**Wilmington District Water
Management, 2007 Leadership
Development Program**

Whoever said “all I really need to know I learned in kindergarten” may have been onto something. As the 2007 Leadership Development Program team (a.k.a. The Dirty Dozen) learned in our February kickoff session, our very early childhood experiences are precisely what create in each of us a unique set of talents. The book, *Now, Discover Your Strengths*, defines our talents as those innate patterns of thought, feeling, or behavior that

reveal themselves in our spontaneous reactions to everyday situations. Moreover, these talents are enduring, meaning that whatever yours happen to be... you’re stuck with ‘em. So whether you’re an idea-guy, a go-getter, a go-with-the-flow-er, or a consensus-builder, your talents are your *lifelong* keys to your strengths.

Your dominant talents aren’t the whole story though, when it comes to realizing your strengths, i.e., those activities at which you consistently excel (whether it’s developing computer models or negotiating contracts or counseling peers).

While you can’t change your set of talents, you *can acquire* the other two ingredients that comprise your strengths, namely, knowledge and skills. Knowledge can be factual information from a book or a teacher, or it can come from experience (the proverbial “engineering judgment”). Skills are acquired abilities that demonstrate the sequences of steps that a knowledgeable person would tell you to follow in order to do an activity well. However, as many of us already know, learning a skill can only get you so far without talent.

So what about our weaknesses? Learn to manage around them (by improving enough to make do or by associating with others who have those strengths), but realize that your greatest potential for success comes through your strengths. And as a team, The Dirty Dozen’s greatest potential for success will come from recognizing and capitalizing on the diverse strengths of our team members. ■



You might be strong enough to tear a phone book in half, but are you strong enough to acquire new skills and knowledge?

WEBSITE HIGHLIGHTS

WITH BARBARA EKELUND

Live Science

Did you know that if you are an epileptic, brushing your teeth could trigger a seizure? At least that's what



livescience.com relates. It's a great website for learning about new discoveries and 'popular' science topics from Imaginova Corp. It caught my attention recently because of an item on the mega-volcanic activity at Yellowstone. I have a hard time imaging a caldera that is 45-by-30 miles in area. Should that blow, the western U.S. would be history! Interesting headers lead a user to: Animal Domains; Health SciTech; Forces of Nature; Environment; Technology; Science of Fiction; History; and, Strange News. There is also a community featuring amazing images, a discussion board and newsletter.

Plastic Economy

\$115 million dollars nationally and in North Carolina, the average household credit card debt is \$4,461.85! Updated in real-time, plasticeconomy.com tracks the level of credit

card debt carried by Americans. This is a relatively new website created by a bunch of guys in South Carolina.

They aim to help people "break away from consumer debt," by understanding and better managing their debt.

The site offers free personal, confidential credit card tracking, "Live Stats" (credit card debt by state and average APRs), advice on reducing credit card debt, a glossary of terms used by credit card companies and a directory of over 2,500 Credit Counselors by state. The site is sponsored by several banks, including Chase, BOA and Citi which makes it free to us.

Fuel Economy

Have you had your fill of car commercials lately? Did you know that Mercedes-Benz is reconsidering its use of diesel fuel and developing hybrid options in a joint program with BMW for future customers? If you are considering a change in automobile, check out fueleconomy.gov. From the EPA and U.S. Dept. of Energy, this website offers a side-by-side comparison of the cars' mileage, gas emissions, air pollution ratings and safety information. Gas prices, ethanol, hybrids, fuel economy ratings, they're all here. It's a

neat place to go for information on energy topics relating to cars.

Citizen Dium

Ever question the credibility of entries in Wikipedia? Here's a just launched site competing with Wikipedia, http://en.citizendium.org/wiki/Main_Page which is aiming at "creating an enormous, free, and reliable [internet] encyclopedia." Started by a founder of Wikipedia, it purports to "improve on the Wikipedia model by adding "gentle expert oversight" and requiring contributors to use their real names." If successful, it should help to clear out some of the junk out there pretending to be accurate information.

Just for fun

One of the major events in our area, the Azalea Festival is coming up soon! It will be five days of parties, pageants, parades, street fairs, art show, horse show, coin show, concerts, a circus, a triathlon and, of course, gardens! Here's the official link to the North Carolina Azalea Festival: www.ncazaleafestival.org. Buy tickets now for your events as over 300,000 people are expected to visit Wilmington.

REACHING OUT AND CORPS FAMILY NEWS

W. Kerr Scott Park Ranger **Jory Shepherd** presented an interpretive program on the Corps mission and history the dam to the North Wilkesboro Ladies Club.

IM Co Op **Eric Howell** has been accepted to start his PhD in com-

puter science at Kansas University. He has been awarded a \$3000 departmental scholarship from the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science department at KU.

Edward Miller, son of **Debbie**

Miller of the Asheville Regulatory Field Office, has been accepted to the Air Force Academy in Colorado. Edward received a call recently from North Carolina Senator Elizabeth Dole who notified him of his summertime report date.



Greetings From Iraq!

Sherry Gaylor paid a special visit to the Wilmington District on 26 March via VTC. Sherry was the featured guest for a National Women's History Month gathering sponsored by the Federal Women's Program.

OF SNAILS AND BLINDNESS CON'T

with it, and it has led me into taking some un-Christian actions.

Have you ever seen a small child avoid somebody because they were dressed poorly, didn't shave, or behaved strangely? Me neither. But I have done so and I bet you have too. It's so easy to give them a wide berth or cross the street before they get too close. I find that in their innocence, children see all people simply as people; they hold no preconceived notions of correct

behavior or dress. I, however, have prejudged people based on appearances or actions many, many times. I'm trying to do better but I'm still tempted every time I see a person who, by my criteria, seems to be homeless or destitute. Do I really have the time or patience to be bothered by one of "them" right now?

The irony of it all is that I think I'm using the wisdom and knowledge that comes with maturity to s

ee the situation clearly,

when actually I'm blinding myself to the fact that God loves all people and I should too. Every person is a person of worth, regardless of how they appear to us, and we do not love them if we avoid them.

Unlike the magnificent ramshorn, our adult blindness can be healed. We must recapture the innocence of our childhood - for then we had eyes that worked! (Mark 10:13-16). ■